

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Siam

DATE DISTR. 27 JUNE 1955

SUBJECT Censorship of Press by Phibul

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1. Censorship of the press, at one time under the authority of a censorship board, is now under the direct control of Premier Phibul. Phibul personally ordered the censoring of Lak Thai, Siang Thai and Krungdeb Raiwan (Bangkok Raiwan).
2. Lak Thai was censored for incorrectly reporting that the Navy intended to assist another coup attempt. This paper is edited by a younger brother of Colonel Khun Chamnong Phumiwet and is one of two papers Chamnong purchased with 50,000 baht he withdrew from the eight million baht appropriated for the November Coup expenses. The second paper is registered under the name of Chamnong's second wife and is presently operated by her two brothers.
3. Siang Thai, a staunch supporter of Pridi, was censored as a result of "mud-slinging" aimed at the November Coup group.
4. Krungdeb Raiwan, now edited by Prasit (fnu) formerly of the Prachakorn, printed an interview with Lieutenant Commander Pradist Pulket, Commanding Officer of the Chonburi Marine Garrison.*
5. Following censorship of the above publications, the following newspapers were also added to the list. Chart Thai Weekly was censored for the publication of obscene stories. Prachatipatal was censored for its accurate reporting on police concentrations against the Marines. Kiatiasak was censored for the continual printing of inaccurate articles or articles based on fragmentary facts.
6. Police Major General Luang Phisit** sent a police captain to make discreet inquiries of Thongkam, Bangkok Post delivery manager, concerning the shares held in that newspaper by the late Nai Tawi Tavetikul.

25X1X [REDACTED] Comment. Ranks second to Rear Admiral Taharn Khamhiran and sheltered Luang Thamrong Nawasawat, the former Premier, in his house after the November coup.

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25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Possibly the same as Police Colonel Luang Phisit Witayakarn, Commander of the Central Investigation Division.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA R.G. 77/1783

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